Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.78 JAN.
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THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
A NEW BEGINNING
GUARANTEED TO KEEP YOU ENTERTAINED THROUGHOUT THE MILLENNIUM
Y2K OK

After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his smelly factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! **ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!**

IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE AND RESPECT THAT I, KING MAXIMILLIAN ACORN BESTOW KNIGHTHOOD UPON THIS YOUTH FOR HIS REPEATED ACTS OF BRAVERY...
...ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE KINGDOM...
...I DUB HIM...

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Sir SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

CHANGES

CHAPTER 1

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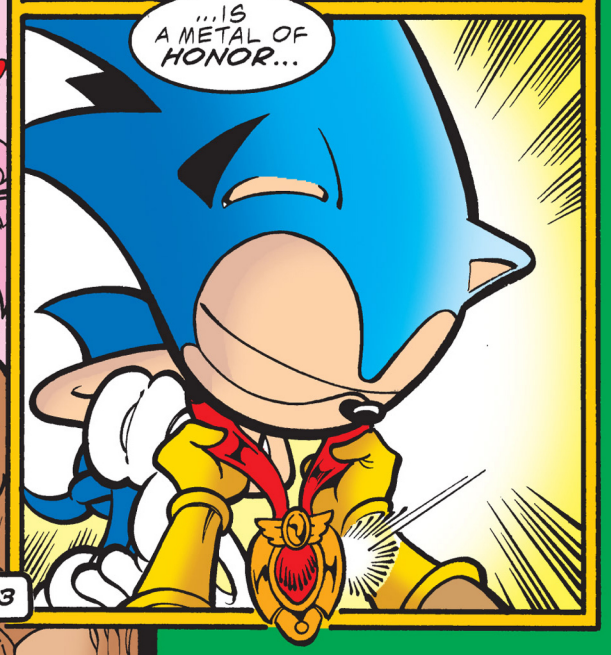
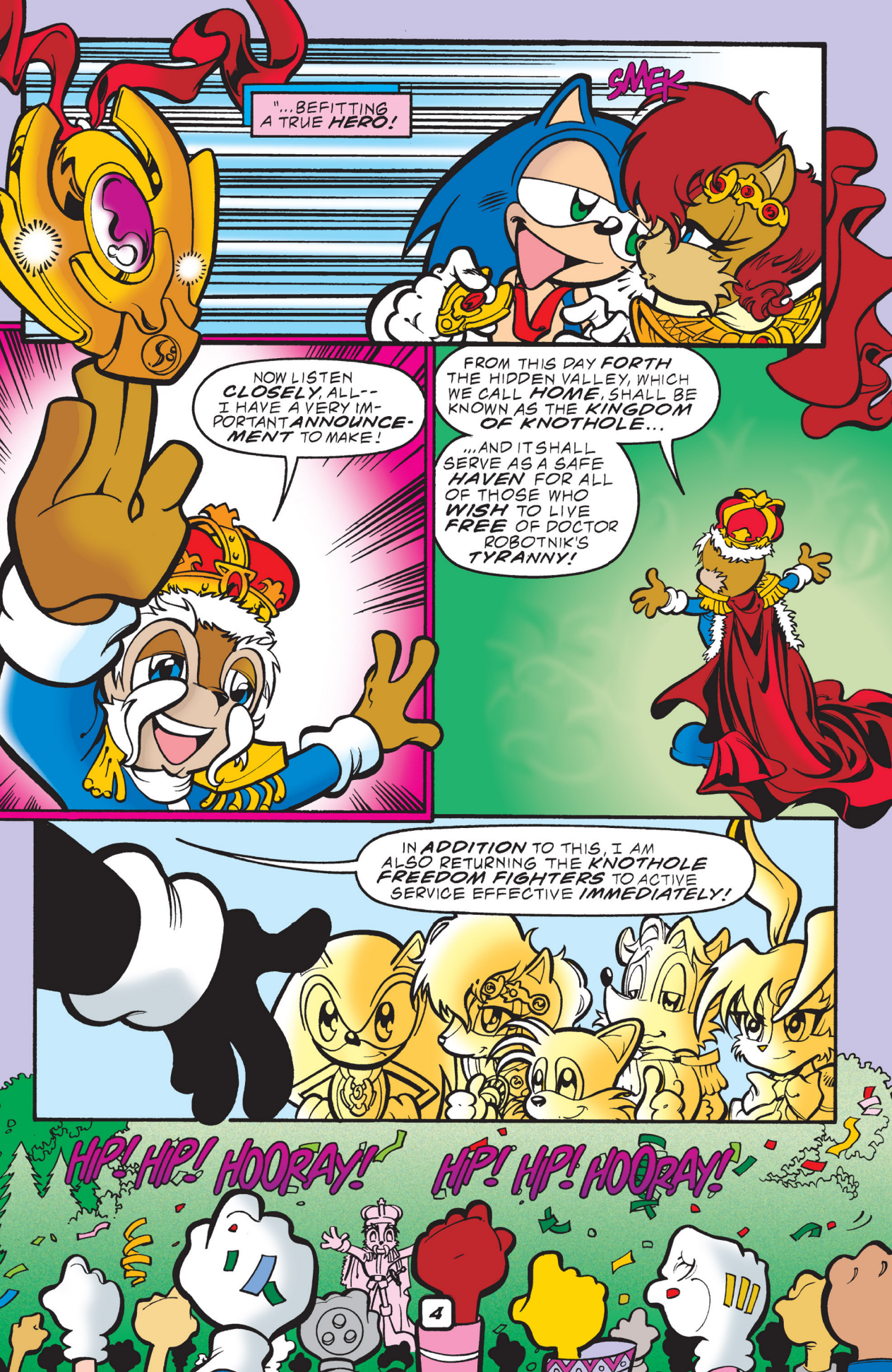
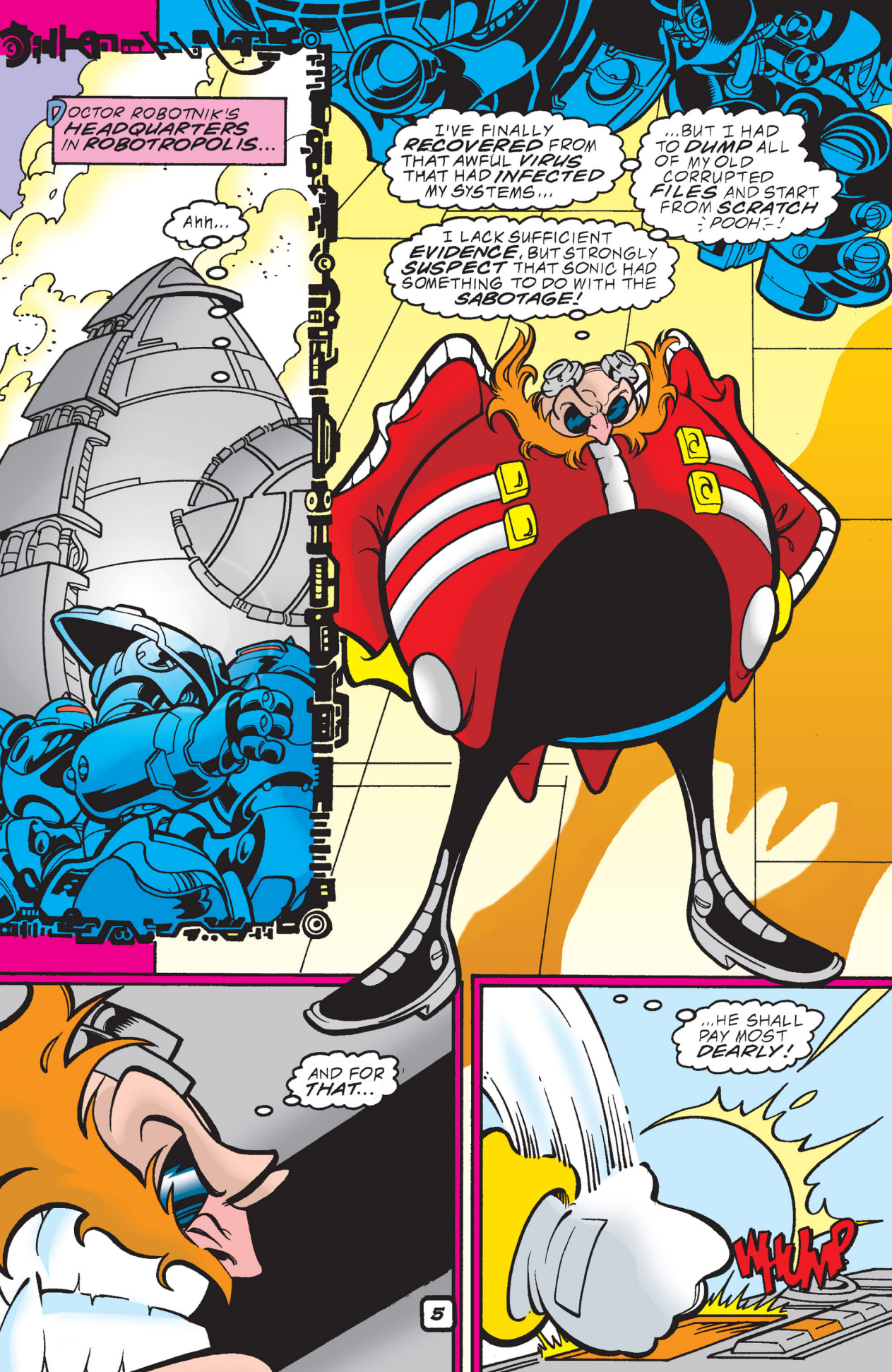
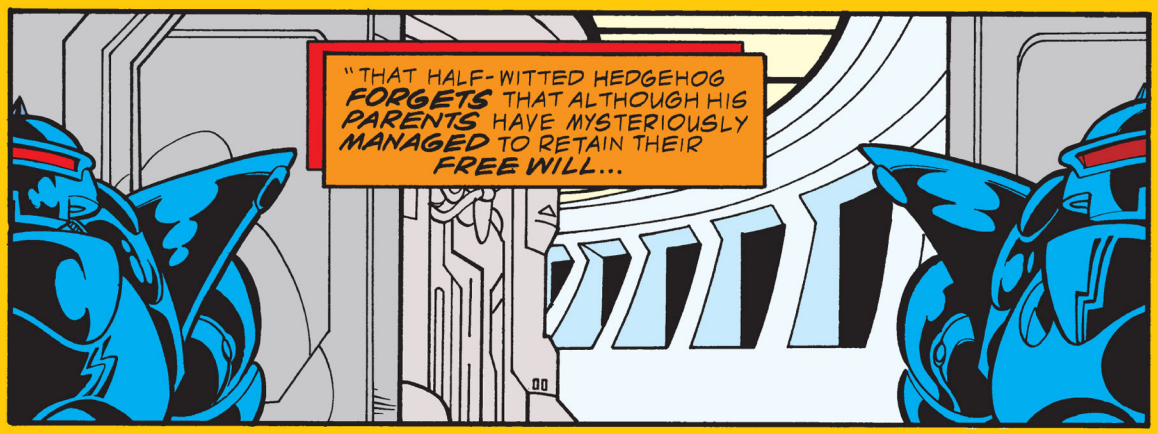
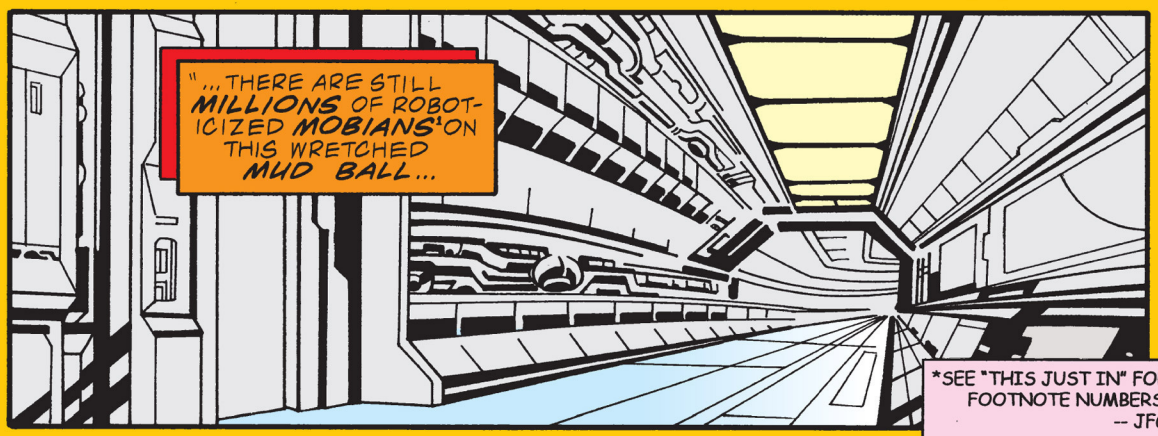


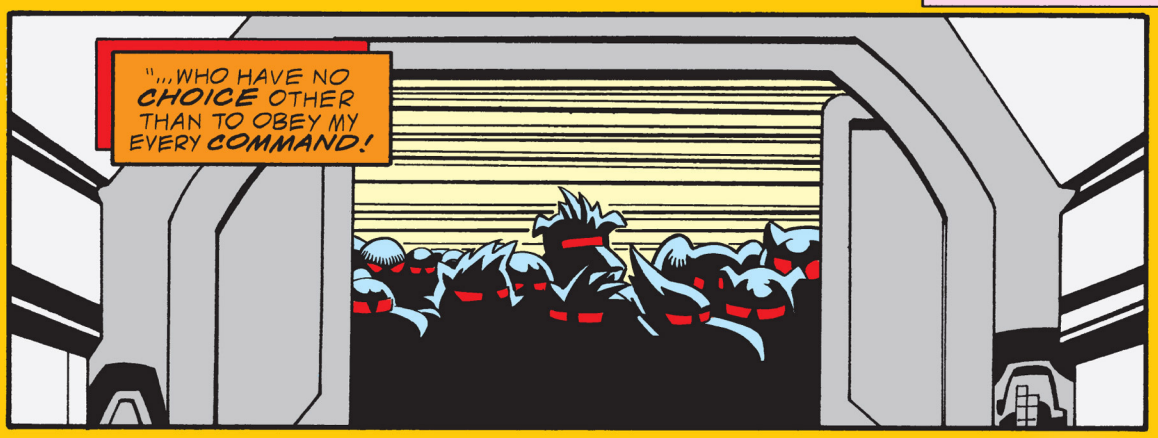

"...BEFITTING A TRUE HERO!
SMEK
NOW LISTEN CLOSELY, ALL-- I HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE!
FROM THIS DAY FORTH THE HIDDEN VALLEY, WHICH WE CALL HOME, SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE KINGDOM OF KNOTHOLE...
...AND IT SHALL SERVE AS A SAFE HAVEN FOR ALL OF THOSE WHO WISH TO LIVE FREE OF DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S TYRANNY!
IN ADDITION TO THIS, I AM ALSO RETURNING THE KNOTHOLE FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO ACTIVE SERVICE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!
HIP! HIP! HOORAY!
HIP! HIP! HOORAY!

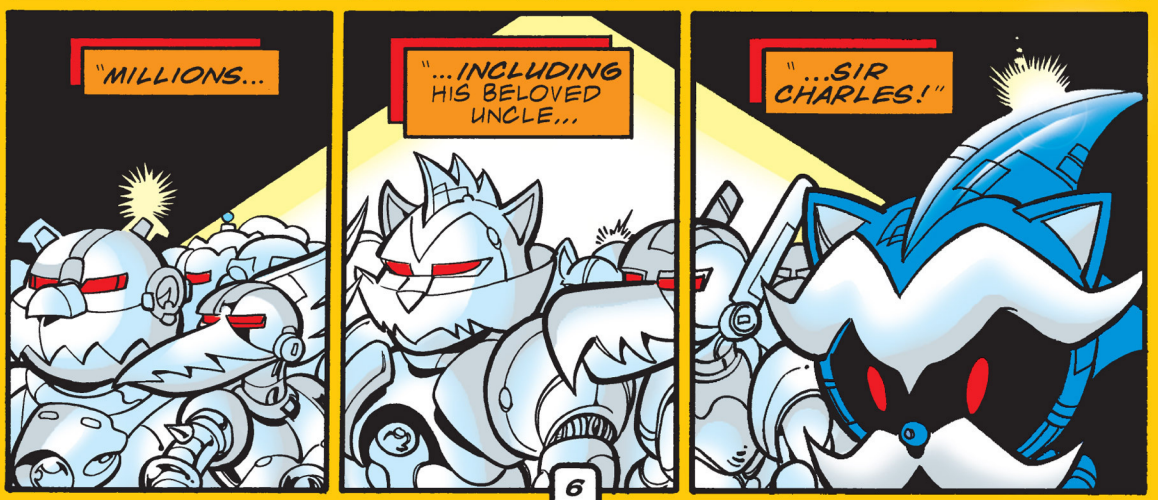

DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S HEADQUARTERS IN ROBOTROPOLIS...
Ahh...
I'VE FINALLY RECOVERED FROM THAT AWFUL VIRUS THAT HAD INFECTED MY SYSTEMS...
...BUT I HAD TO DUMP ALL OF MY OLD CORRUPTED FILES AND START FROM SCRATCH :POOH:-!
I LACK SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE, BUT STRONGLY SUSPECT THAT SONIC HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE SABOTAGE!
AND FOR THAT...
...HE SHALL PAY MOST DEARLY!
WHUMP
5

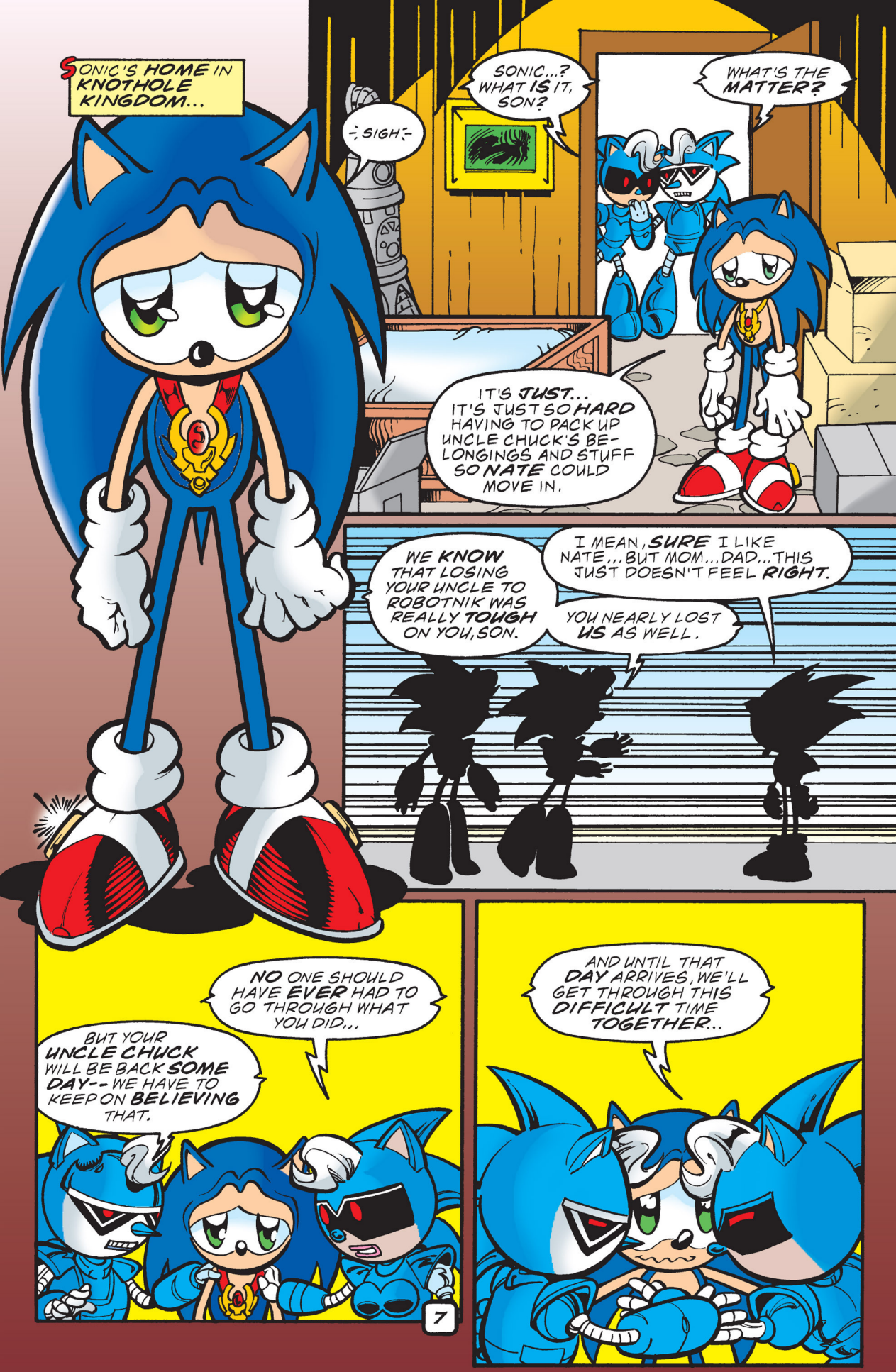




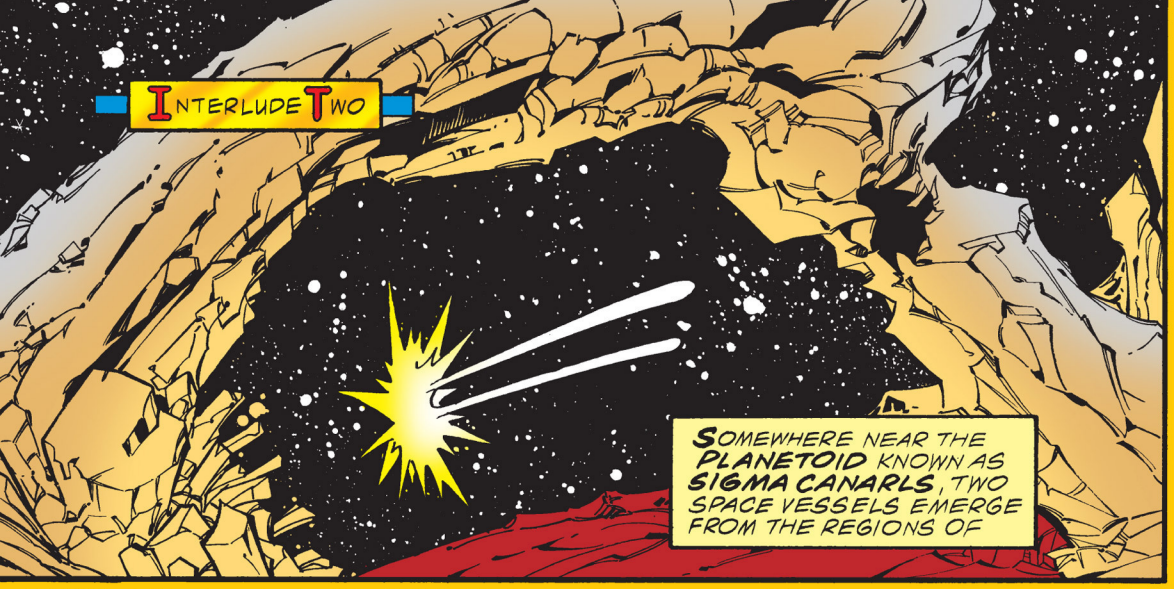
*SEE "THIS JUST IN" FOR FOOTNOTE NUMBERS.
-- JFG

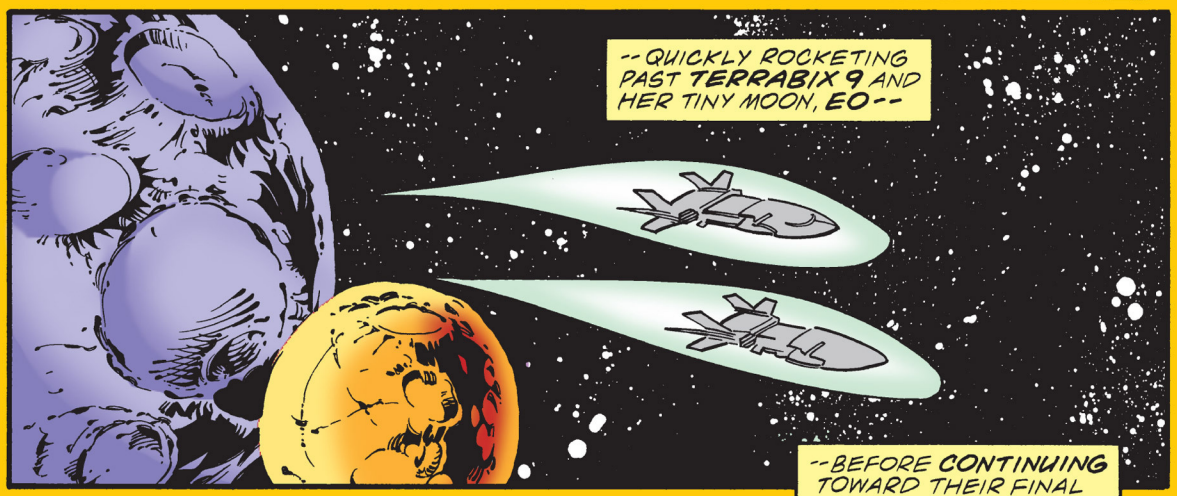


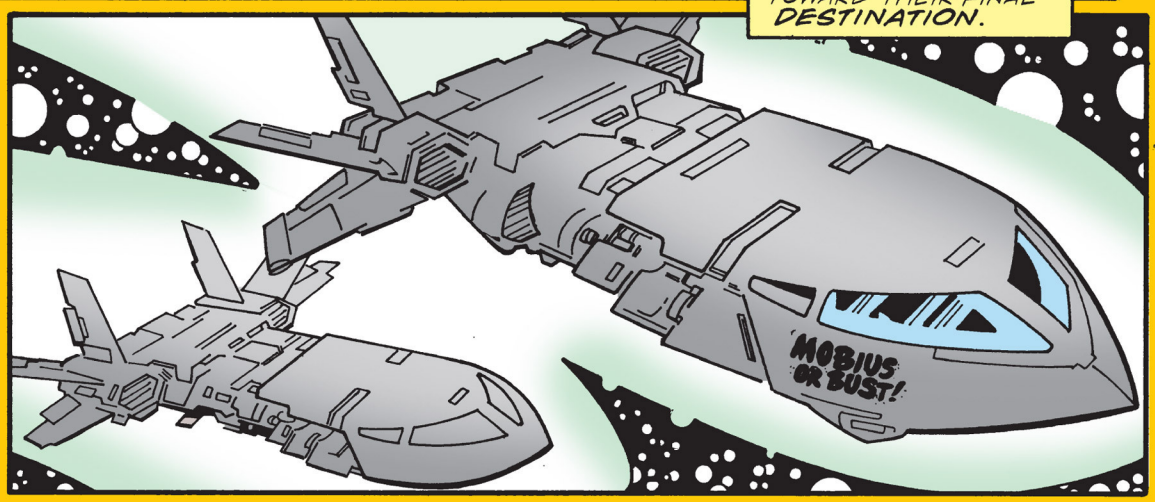


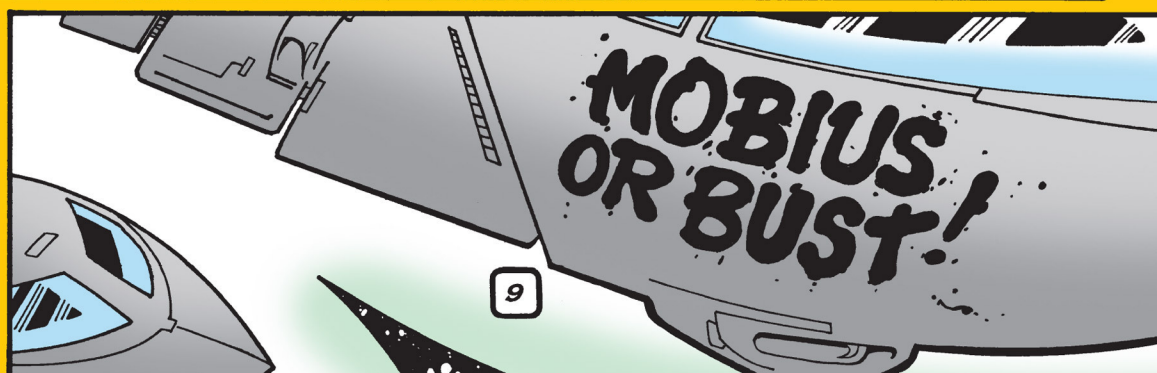

SONIC'S HOME IN KNOTHOLE KINGDOM...
-SIGH-
SONIC...? WHAT IS IT, SON?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IT'S JUST... IT'S JUST SO HARD HAVING TO PACK UP UNCLE CHUCK'S BELONGINGS AND STUFF SO NATE COULD MOVE IN.
WE KNOW THAT LOSING YOUR UNCLE TO ROBOTNIK WAS REALLY TOUGH ON YOU, SON.
I MEAN, SURE I LIKE NATE... BUT MOM... DAD... THIS JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.
YOU NEARLY LOST US AS WELL.
NO ONE SHOULD HAVE EVER HAD TO GO THROUGH WHAT YOU DID...
BUT YOUR UNCLE CHUCK WILL BE BACK SOME DAY-- WE HAVE TO KEEP ON BELIEVING THAT.
AND UNTIL THAT DAY ARRIVES, WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT TIME TOGETHER...

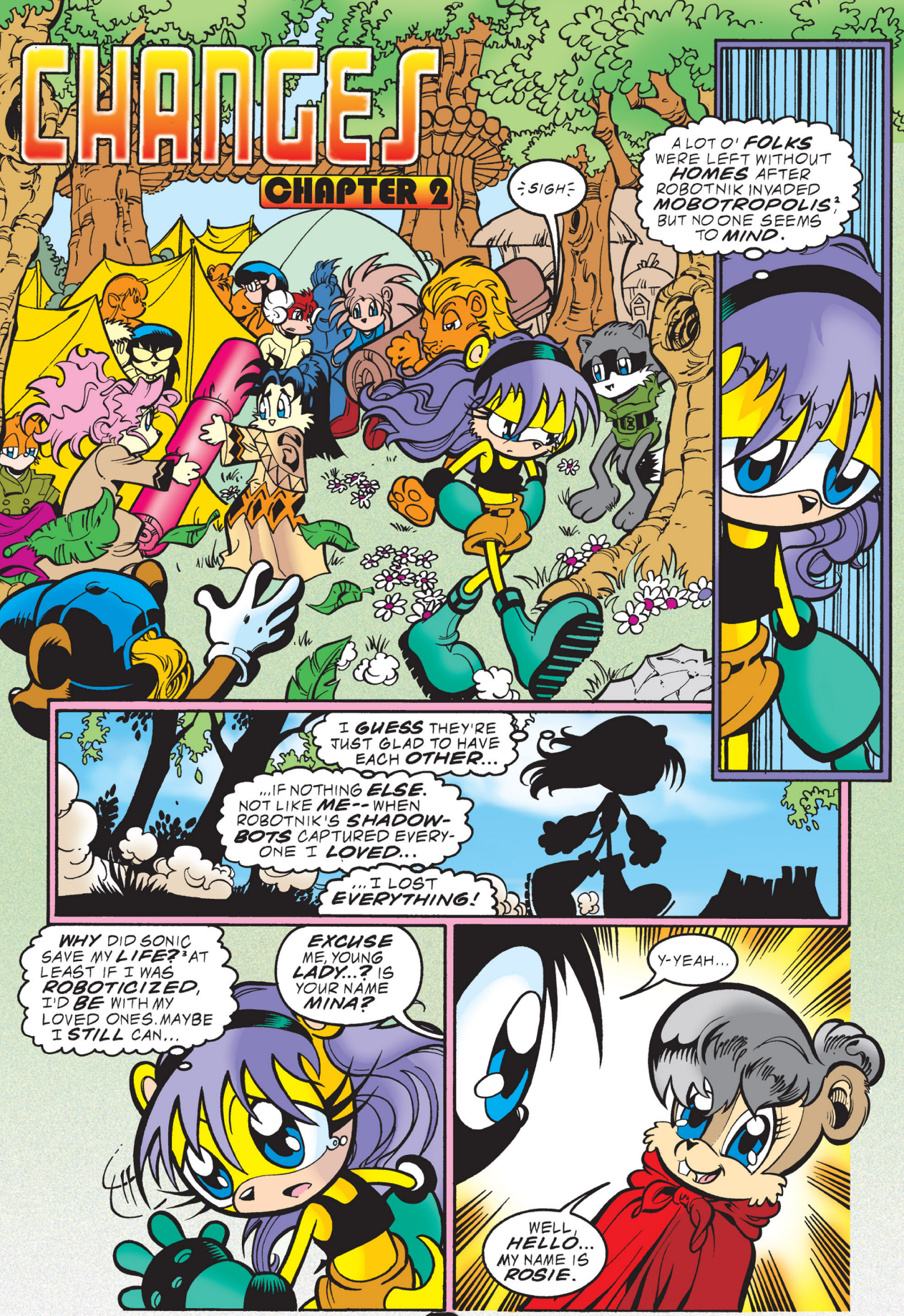
"...AS A FAMILY!"
FATHER, HAS DOCTOR QUACK LEARNED THE REASON WHY MOTHER HAS LONG-SINCE RECOVERED FROM HER INJURIES...
...YET STILL REMAINS ASLEEP WITHIN THIS CRYOGENICS TUBE?
HE'S BEEN TRYING TO SOLVE THAT RIDDLE FOR MONTHS, ELIAS...BUT HASN'T YET FOUND AN ANSWER.
WE SHOULD JUST BE HAPPY THAT QUEEN ALICIA IS ALIVE...
...ALTHOUGH SHE MAY NEVER OPEN HER EYES AGAIN.
DON'T SAY THAT, DAD--WE HAVE TO BE STRONG AND KEEP HOPING SHE'LL GET BETTER!
SALLY'S RIGHT!
HI, NATE!
WHY DON'T WE TELL YOU ON THE WAY TO SONIC'S?
RIGHT ABOUT WHAT?
WELL, FIRST I HAVE TO DROP OFF WHAT'S LEFT OF THE SUPER EMERALD AND THEN...
WERE THE ROYAL FAMILY TO REMAIN INSTEAD OF LEAVING THE MED-LAB WITH THE AGED, OVERLANDER INVENTOR...
...THEY WOULD NOTICE A SLIGHT MOTION THAT WOULD CAUSE THEIR HEARTS TO BEAT EVEN LOUDER UPON THE DRUM THAT IS HOPE.
THEY DO NOT...BUT STILL, THE BEAT CONTINUES.


INTERLUDE TWO
SOMEWHERE NEAR THE PLANETOID KNOWN AS SIGMA CANARLS, TWO SPACE VESSELS EMERGE FROM THE REGIONS OF

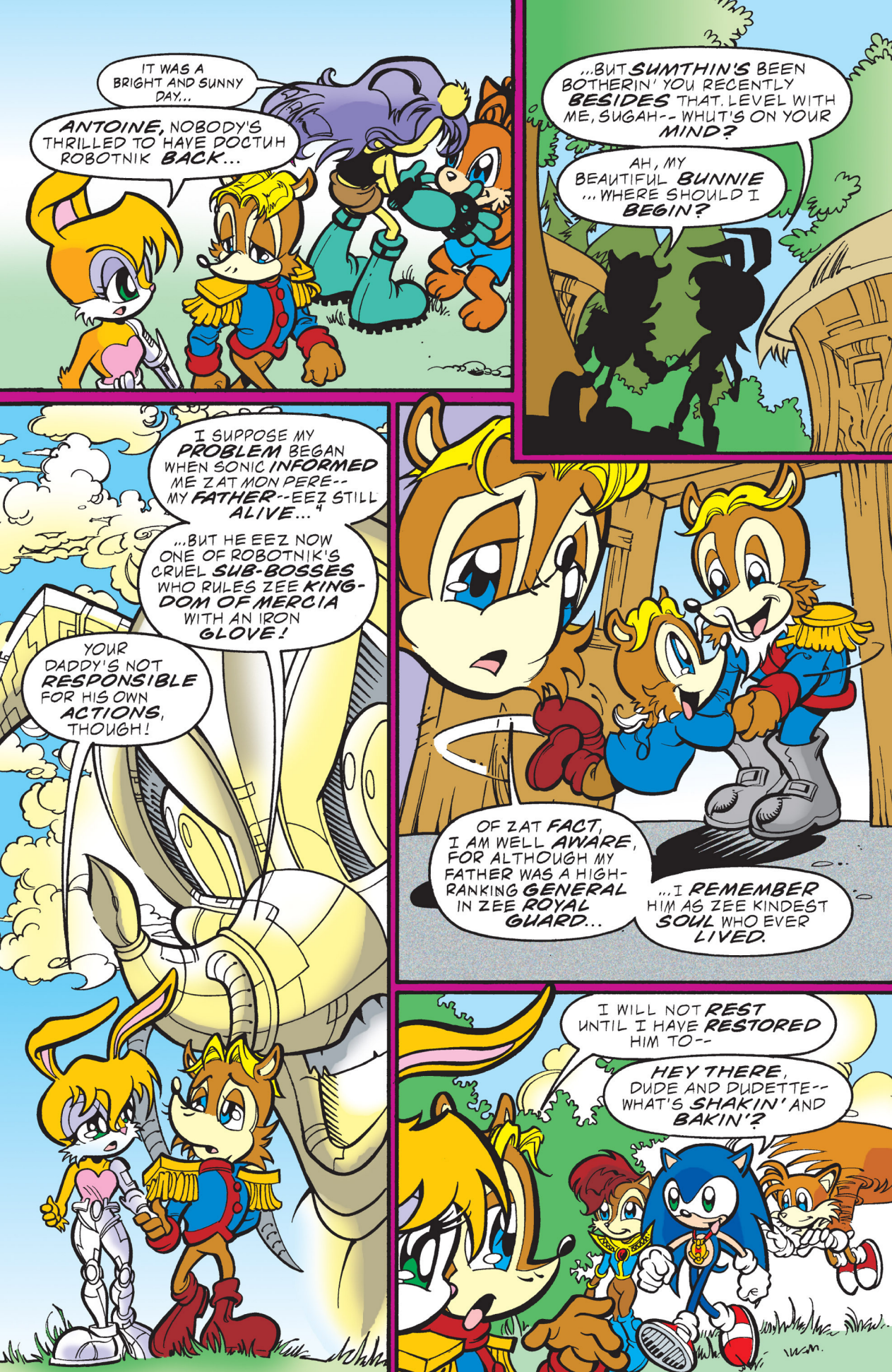

--QUICKLY ROCKETING PAST TERRABIX 9 AND HER TINY MOON, EO--


--BEFORE CONTINUING TOWARD THEIR FINAL DESTINATION.
MOBIUS OR BUST!

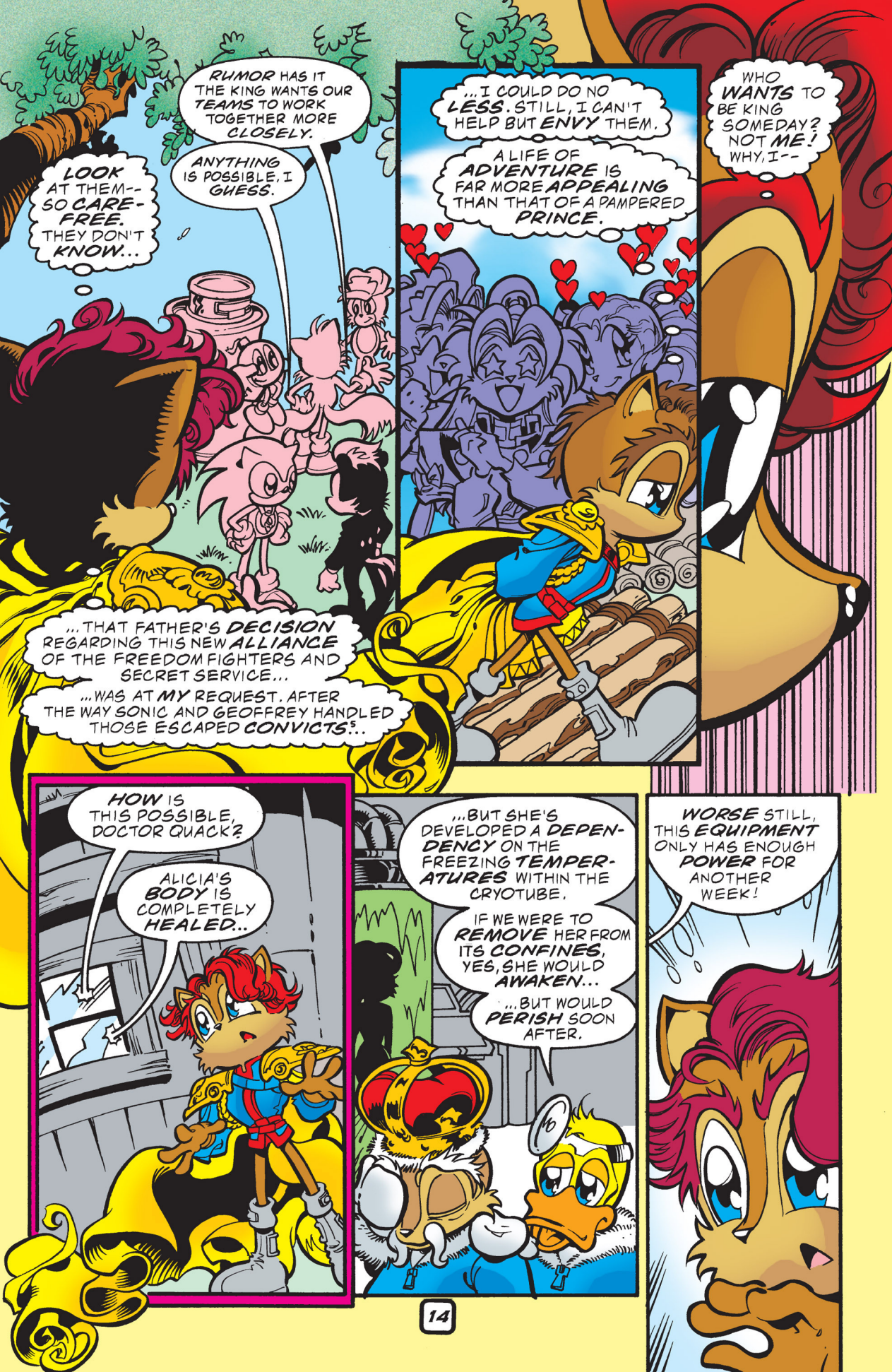

MOBIUS OR BUST!
9

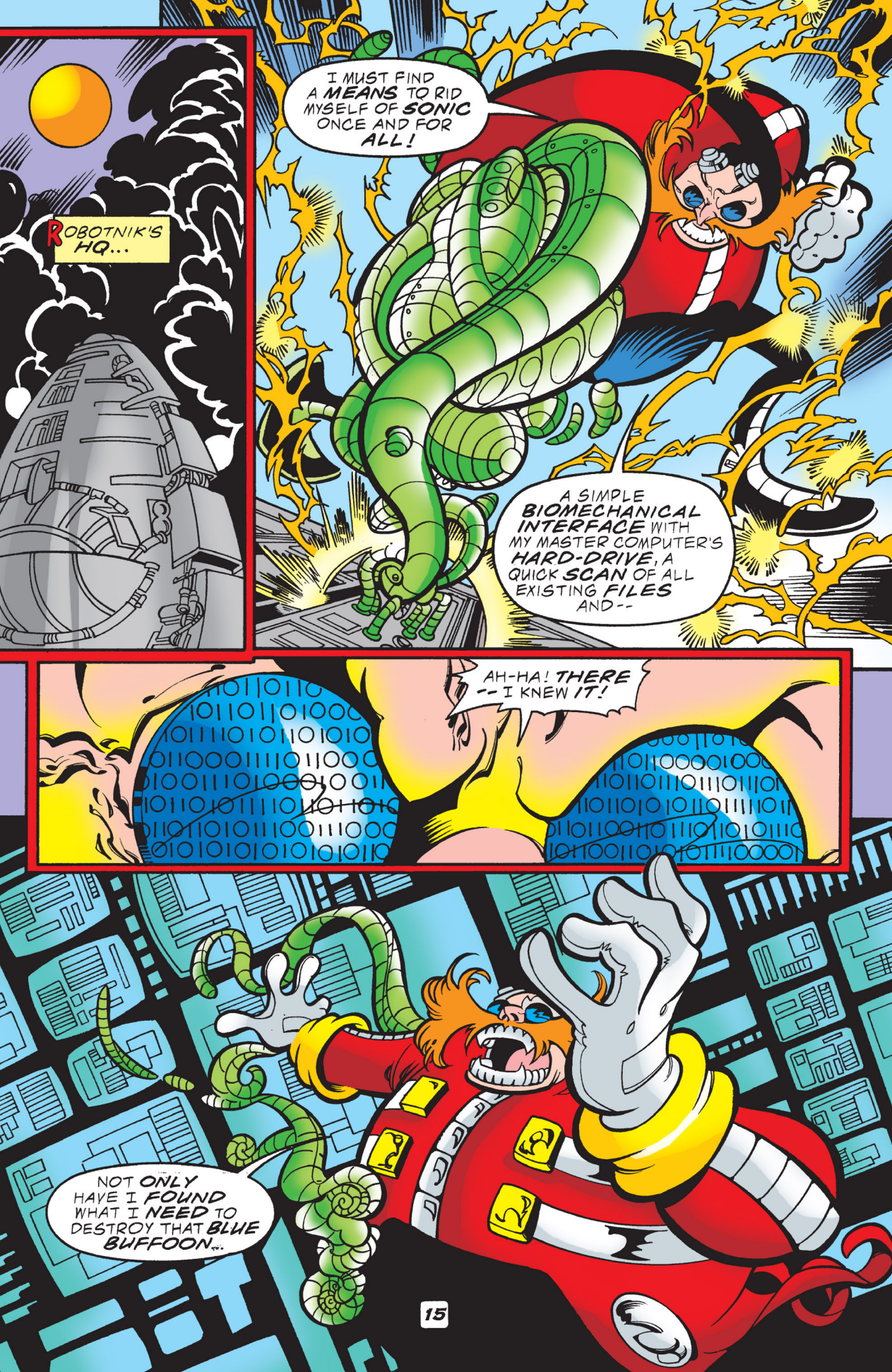

CHANGES
CHAPTER 2
:SIGH:
A LOT O' FOLKS WERE LEFT WITHOUT HOMES AFTER ROBOTNIK INVADED MOBOTROPOLIS[2], BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO MIND.
I GUESS THEY'RE JUST GLAD TO HAVE EACH OTHER...
...IF NOTHING ELSE. NOT LIKE ME-- WHEN ROBOTNIK'S SHADOW-BOTS CAPTURED EVERY-ONE I LOVED...
...I LOST EVERYTHING!
WHY DID SONIC SAVE MY LIFE?[3] AT LEAST IF I WAS ROBOTICIZED, I'D BE WITH MY LOVED ONES. MAYBE I STILL CAN...
EXCUSE ME, YOUNG LADY...? IS YOUR NAME MINA?
Y-YEAH...
WELL, HELLO... MY NAME IS ROSIE.

THIS IS RORY, SNAGGLE, AND SASHA...
THEIR PARENTS WERE TAKEN BY ROBOTNIK'S HORDES AND I WAS HOPING YOU COULD WATCH OVER THEM...
...WHILE I RUN SOME ERRANDS.
ME?!
OF COURSE! THEY'RE IN DESPERATE NEED OF SOMEONE WITH WHOM THEY CAN RELATE, YOUNG ONE.
I'LL RETURN SHORTLY.
Uhh... OKAY.
HIYA, SMALL FRIES-- I'M MINA!
WANNA HEAR A REALLY COOL STORY?

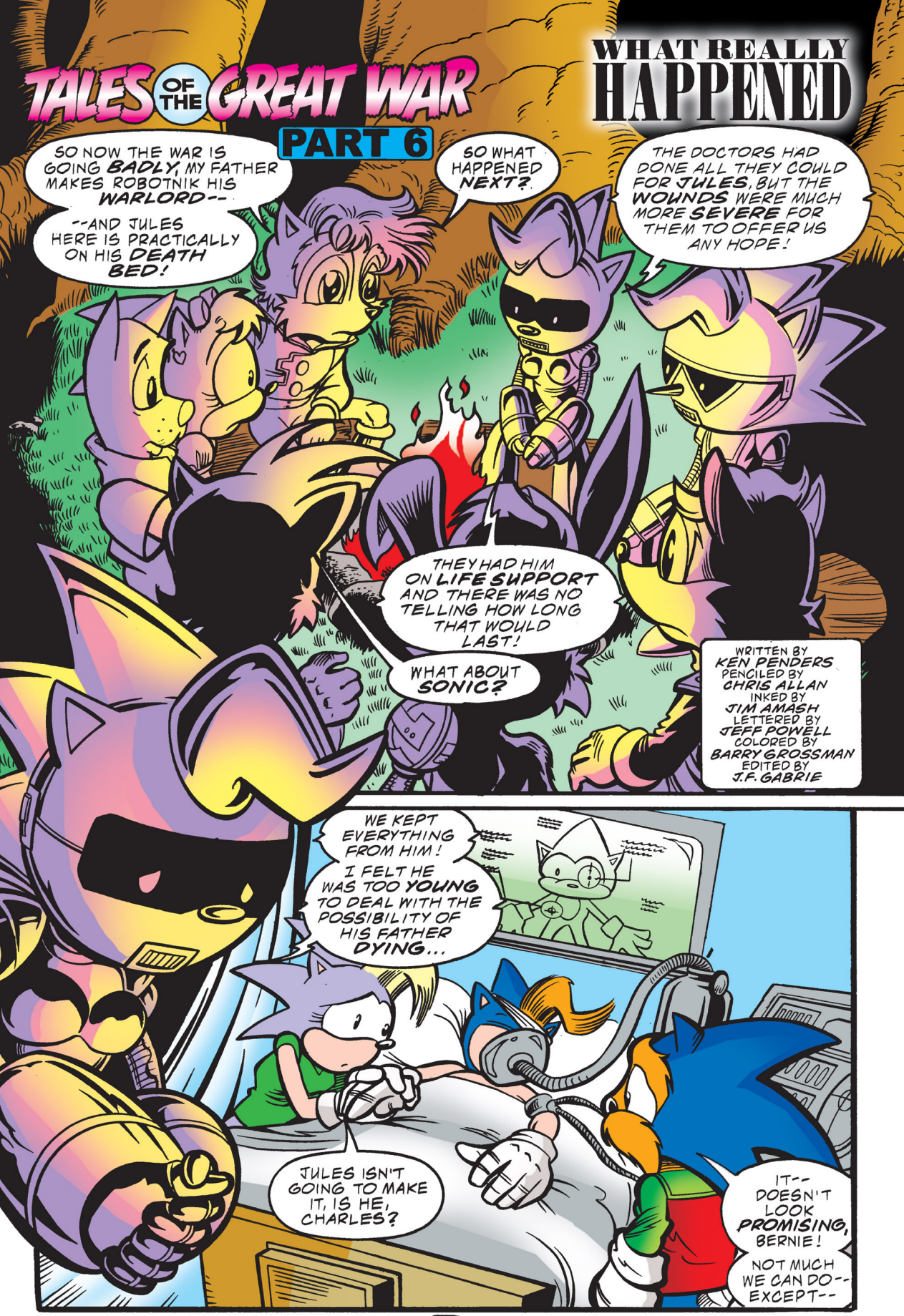

IT WAS A BRIGHT AND SUNNY DAY...
ANTOINE, NOBODY'S THRILLED TO HAVE DOCTUH ROBOTNIK BACK...
...BUT SUMTHIN'S BEEN BOTHERIN' YOU RECENTLY BESIDES THAT. LEVEL WITH ME, SUGAH-- WHUT'S ON YOUR MIND?
AH, MY BEAUTIFUL BUNNIE ...WHERE SHOULD I BEGIN?
I SUPPOSE MY PROBLEM BEGAN WHEN SONIC INFORMED ME ZAT MON PERE-- MY FATHER--EEZ STILL ALIVE...
...BUT HE EEZ NOW ONE OF ROBOTNIK'S CRUEL SUB-BOSSES WHO RULES ZEE KING-DOM OF MERCIA WITH AN IRON GLOVE!
YOUR DADDY'S NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OWN ACTIONS, THOUGH!
OF ZAT FACT, I AM WELL AWARE, FOR ALTHOUGH MY FATHER WAS A HIGH-RANKING GENERAL IN ZEE ROYAL GUARD...
...I REMEMBER HIM AS ZEE KINDEST SOUL WHO EVER LIVED.
I WILL NOT REST UNTIL I HAVE RESTORED HIM TO--
HEY THERE, DUDE AND DUDETTE-- WHAT'S SHAKIN' AND BAKIN'?

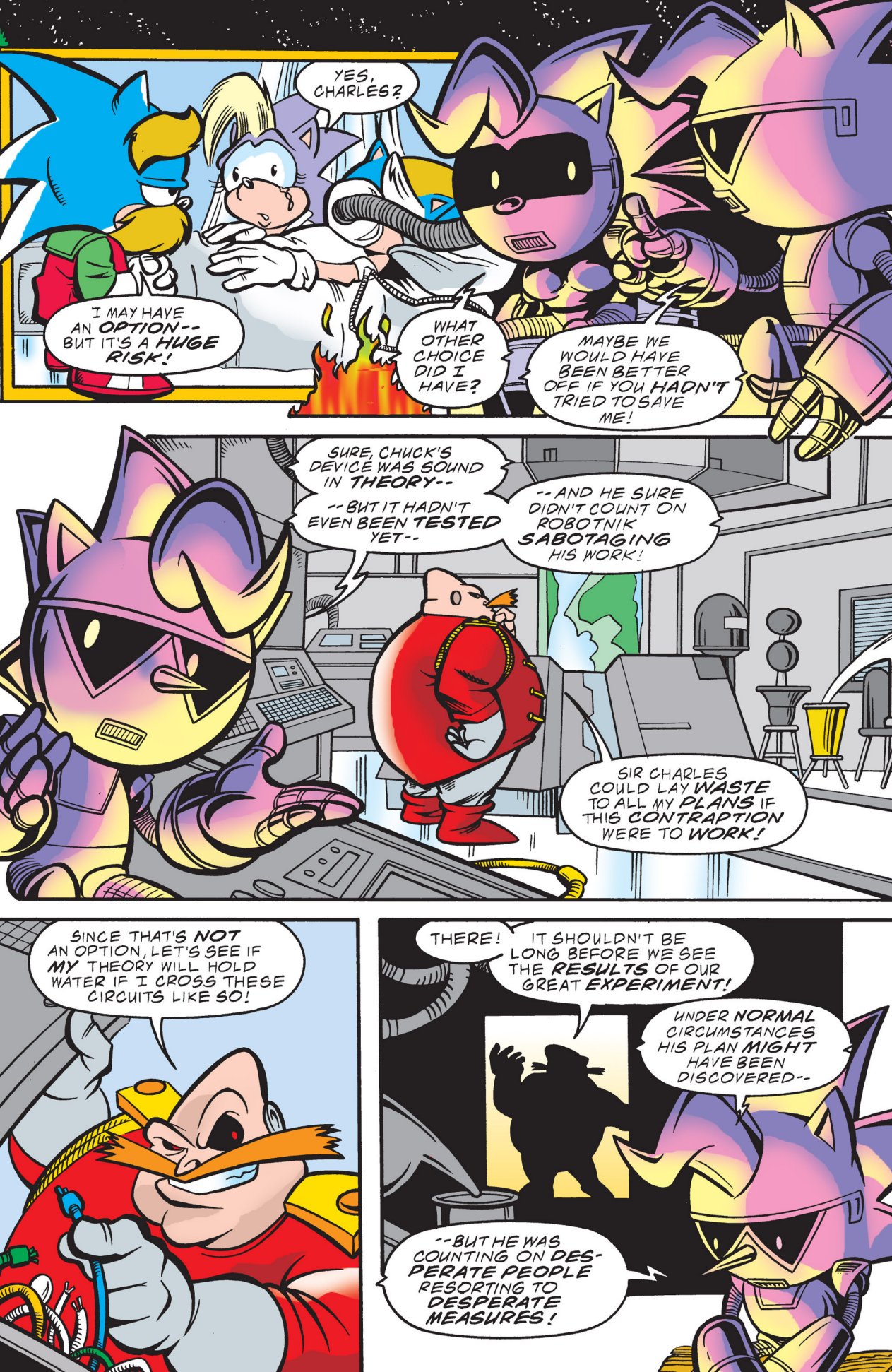
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR KNIGHTHOOD, SUGAH-HOG!
I AS WELL SALUTE YOU, MON AMI!
THEN HOW ABOUT CALLING ME "SIR SONIC" FROM NOW ON?
YAAAY! SIR SONIC!
I THOROUGHLY AM REJECTING ZAT NOTION!
I WARNED DAD THIS WOULD HAPPEN!
LOOK-- IT'S GEOFFREY St. JOHN AND HIS SECRET SERVICE AGENTS!
WELL, WE BOTH KNEW THAT THIS DAY HAD TO COME SOONER OR LATER...
...AND ALTHOUGH I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED MUCH, MUCH LATER...
...YOU HAVE MY BEGRUDGING RESPECT, "SIR."
DON'T GET ALL MUSHY ON ME, St. JOHN!

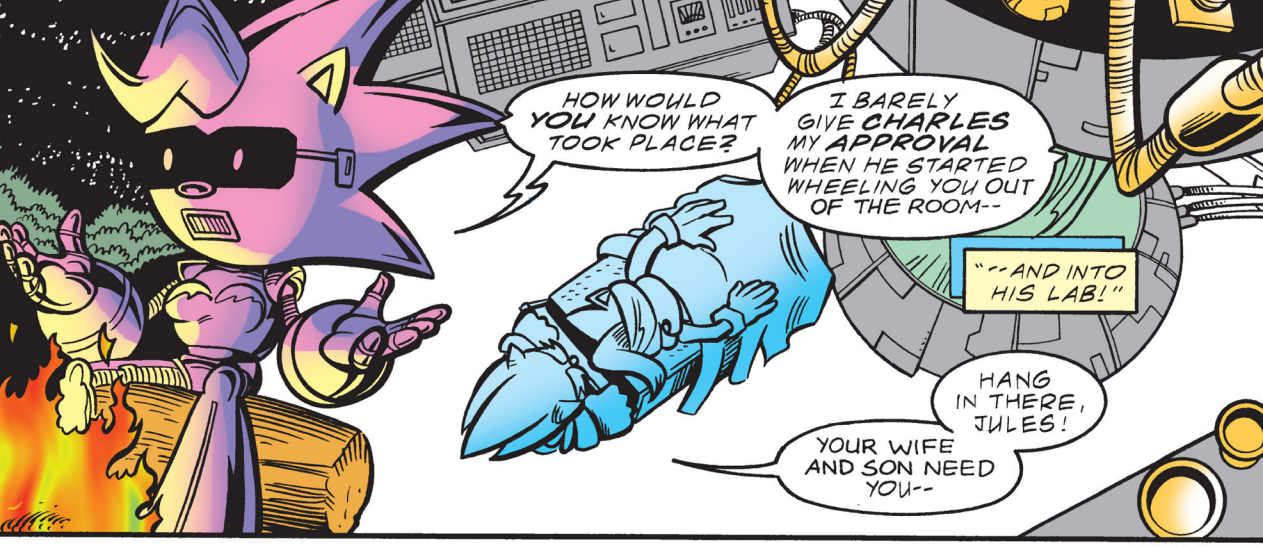

RUMOR HAS IT THE KING WANTS OUR TEAMS TO WORK TOGETHER MORE CLOSELY.
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, I GUESS.
LOOK AT THEM-- SO CARE-FREE. THEY DON'T KNOW...
...I COULD DO NO LESS. STILL, I CAN'T HELP BUT ENVY THEM.
A LIFE OF ADVENTURE IS FAR MORE APPEALING THAN THAT OF A PAMPERED PRINCE.
WHO WANTS TO BE KING SOMEDAY? NOT ME! WHY, I--
...THAT FATHER'S DECISION REGARDING THIS NEW ALLIANCE OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND SECRET SERVICE...
...WAS AT MY REQUEST. AFTER THE WAY SONIC AND GEOFFREY HANDLED THOSE ESCAPED CONVICTS!..
HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE, DOCTOR QUACK?
ALICIA'S BODY IS COMPLETELY HEALED..
...BUT SHE'S DEVELOPED A DEPENDENCY ON THE FREEZING TEMPERATURES WITHIN THE CRYOTUBE.
IF WE WERE TO REMOVE HER FROM ITS CONFINES, YES, SHE WOULD AWAKEN...
...BUT WOULD PERISH SOON AFTER.
WORSE STILL, THIS EQUIPMENT ONLY HAS ENOUGH POWER FOR ANOTHER WEEK!


ROBOTNIK'S HQ...
I MUST FIND A MEANS TO RID MYSELF OF SONIC ONCE AND FOR ALL!
A SIMPLE BIOMECHANICAL INTERFACE WITH MY MASTER COMPUTER'S HARD-DRIVE, A QUICK SCAN OF ALL EXISTING FILES AND--
AH-HA! THERE --I KNEW IT!
NOT ONLY HAVE I FOUND WHAT I NEED TO DESTROY THAT BLUE BUFFOON...

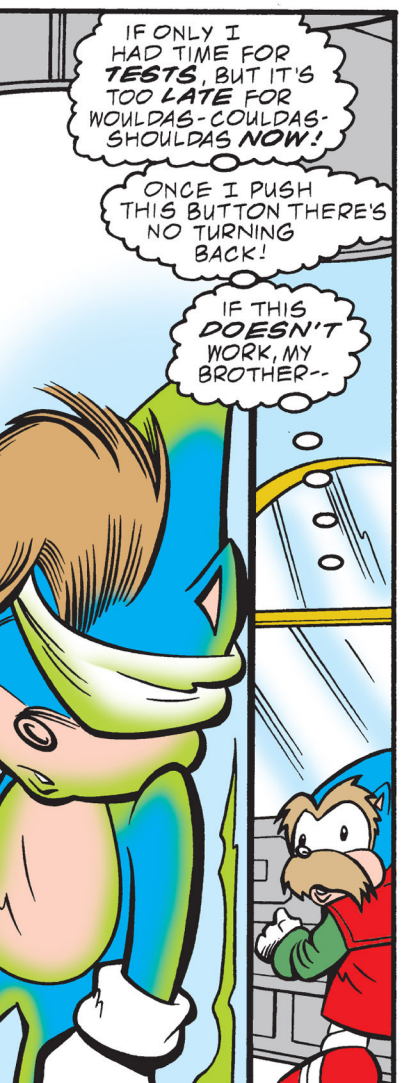
...I'VE ALSO LOCATED ENOUGH POWER WITH WHICH TO ENSLAVE ALL OF MOBIUS!
MAKE HASTE, MY SHADOW-BOTS -- THERE ARE MANY PREPARATIONS TO BE SEEN TO!
CHAOS

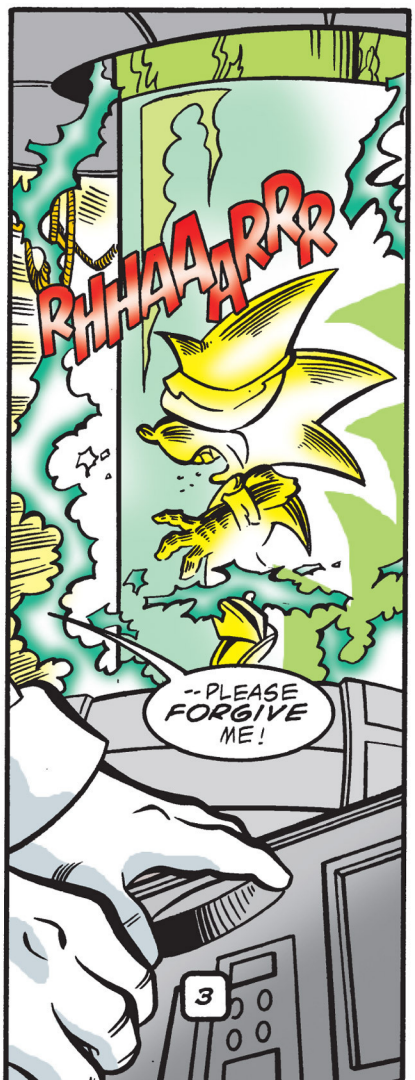

TALES OF THE GREAT WAR
PART 6
WHAT REALLY HAPPENED
SO NOW THE WAR IS GOING BADLY, MY FATHER MAKES ROBOTNIK HIS WARLORD--
--AND JULES HERE IS PRACTICALLY ON HIS DEATH BED!
SO WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
THE DOCTORS HAD DONE ALL THEY COULD FOR JULES, BUT THE WOUNDS WERE MUCH MORE SEVERE FOR THEM TO OFFER US ANY HOPE!
THEY HAD HIM ON LIFE SUPPORT AND THERE WAS NO TELLING HOW LONG THAT WOULD LAST!
WHAT ABOUT SONIC?
WRITTEN BY KEN PENDERS
PENCILED BY CHRIS ALLAN
INKED BY JIM AMASH
LETTERED BY JEFF POWELL
COLORED BY BARRY GROSSMAN
EDITED BY J.F. GABRIE
WE KEPT EVERYTHING FROM HIM!
I FELT HE WAS TOO YOUNG TO DEAL WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS FATHER DYING...
JULES ISN'T GOING TO MAKE IT, IS HE, CHARLES?
IT-- DOESN'T LOOK PROMISING, BERNIE!
NOT MUCH WE CAN DO-- EXCEPT--

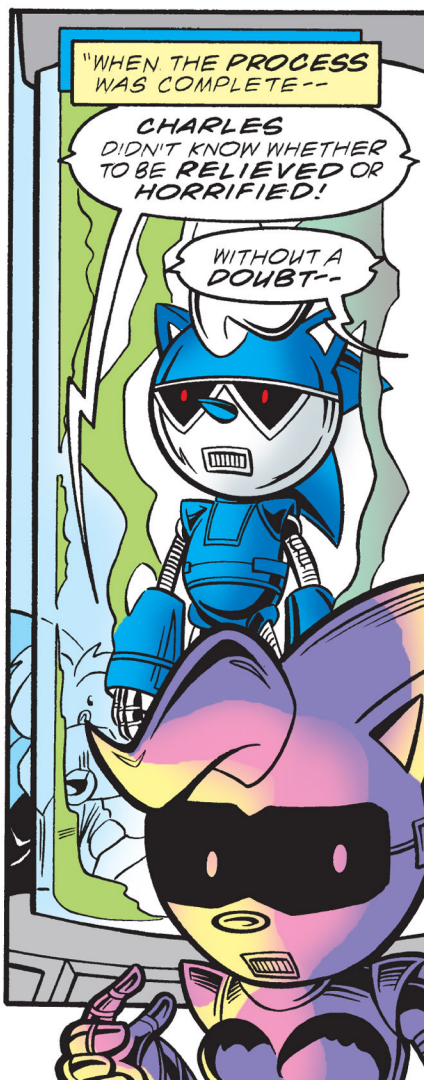

YES, CHARLES?
I MAY HAVE AN OPTION-- BUT IT'S A HUGE RISK!
WHAT OTHER CHOICE DID I HAVE?
MAYBE WE WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF IF YOU HADN'T TRIED TO SAVE ME!
SURE, CHUCK'S DEVICE WAS SOUND IN THEORY--
--BUT IT HADN'T EVEN BEEN TESTED YET--
--AND HE SURE DIDN'T COUNT ON ROBOTNIK SABOTAGING HIS WORK!
SIR CHARLES COULD LAY WASTE TO ALL MY PLANS IF THIS CONTRAPTION WERE TO WORK!
SINCE THAT'S NOT AN OPTION, LET'S SEE IF MY THEORY WILL HOLD WATER IF I CROSS THESE CIRCUITS LIKE SO!
THERE!
IT SHOULDN'T BE LONG BEFORE WE SEE THE RESULTS OF OUR GREAT EXPERIMENT!
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES HIS PLAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED--
--BUT HE WAS COUNTING ON DESPERATE PEOPLE RESORTING TO DESPERATE MEASURES!

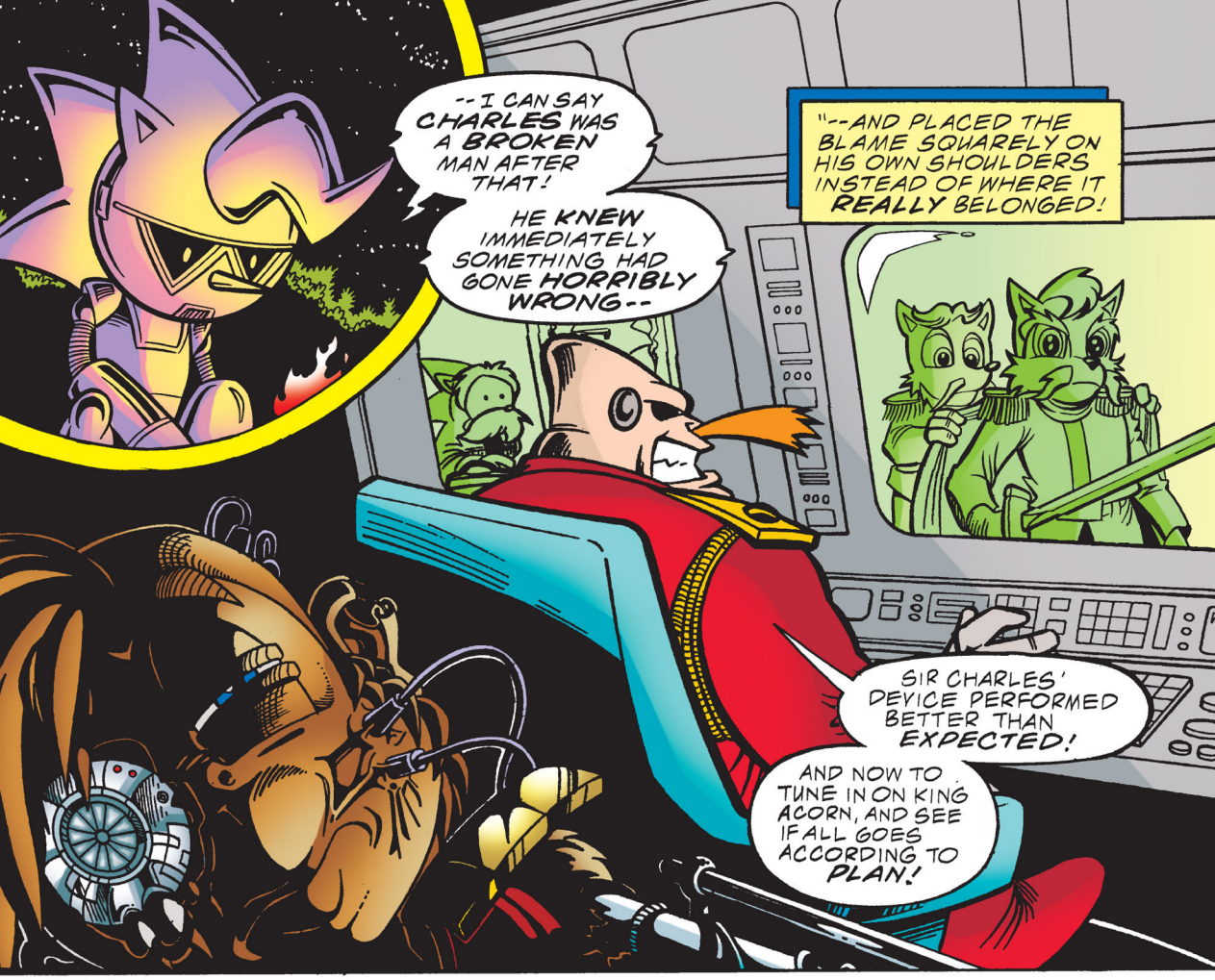

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT TOOK PLACE?
I BARELY GIVE CHARLES MY APPROVAL WHEN HE STARTED WHEELING YOU OUT OF THE ROOM--
"--AND INTO HIS LAB!"
HANG IN THERE, JULES!
YOUR WIFE AND SON NEED YOU--

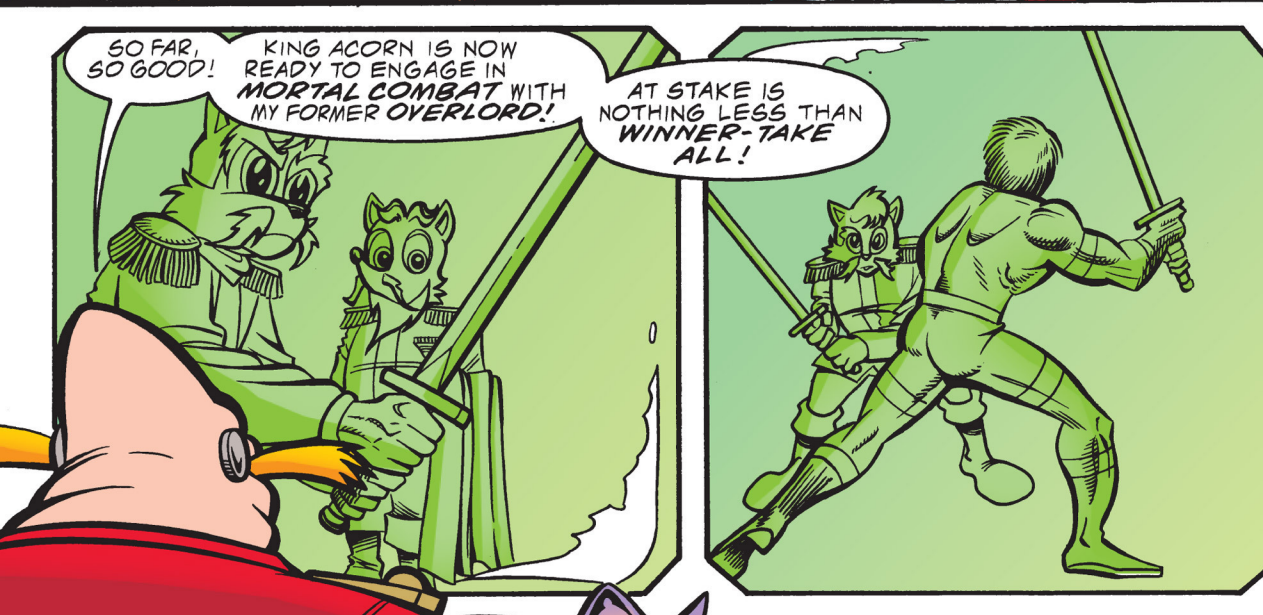
--AS DO I!
YOU GUYS ARE ALL THE FAMILY I HAVE LEFT!
EASY THERE!

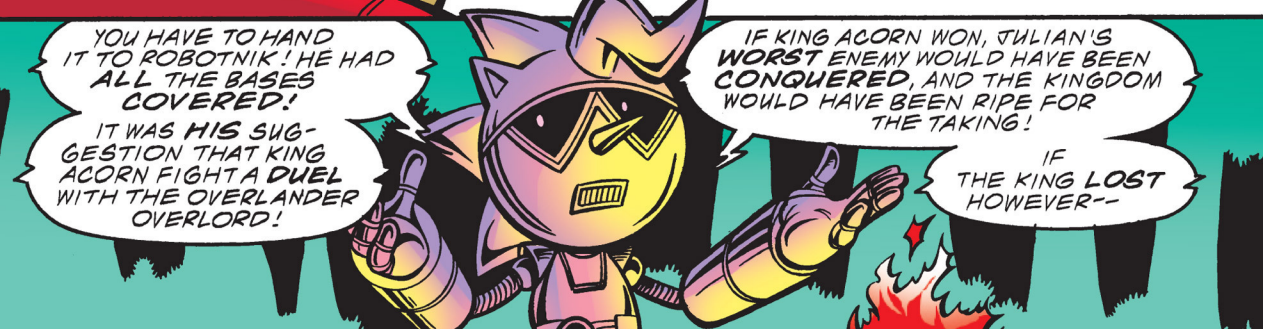

IF ONLY I HAD TIME FOR TESTS, BUT IT'S TOO LATE FOR WOULDAS-COULDAS-SHOULDAS NOW!
ONCE I PUSH THIS BUTTON THERE'S NO TURNING BACK!
IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, MY BROTHER--

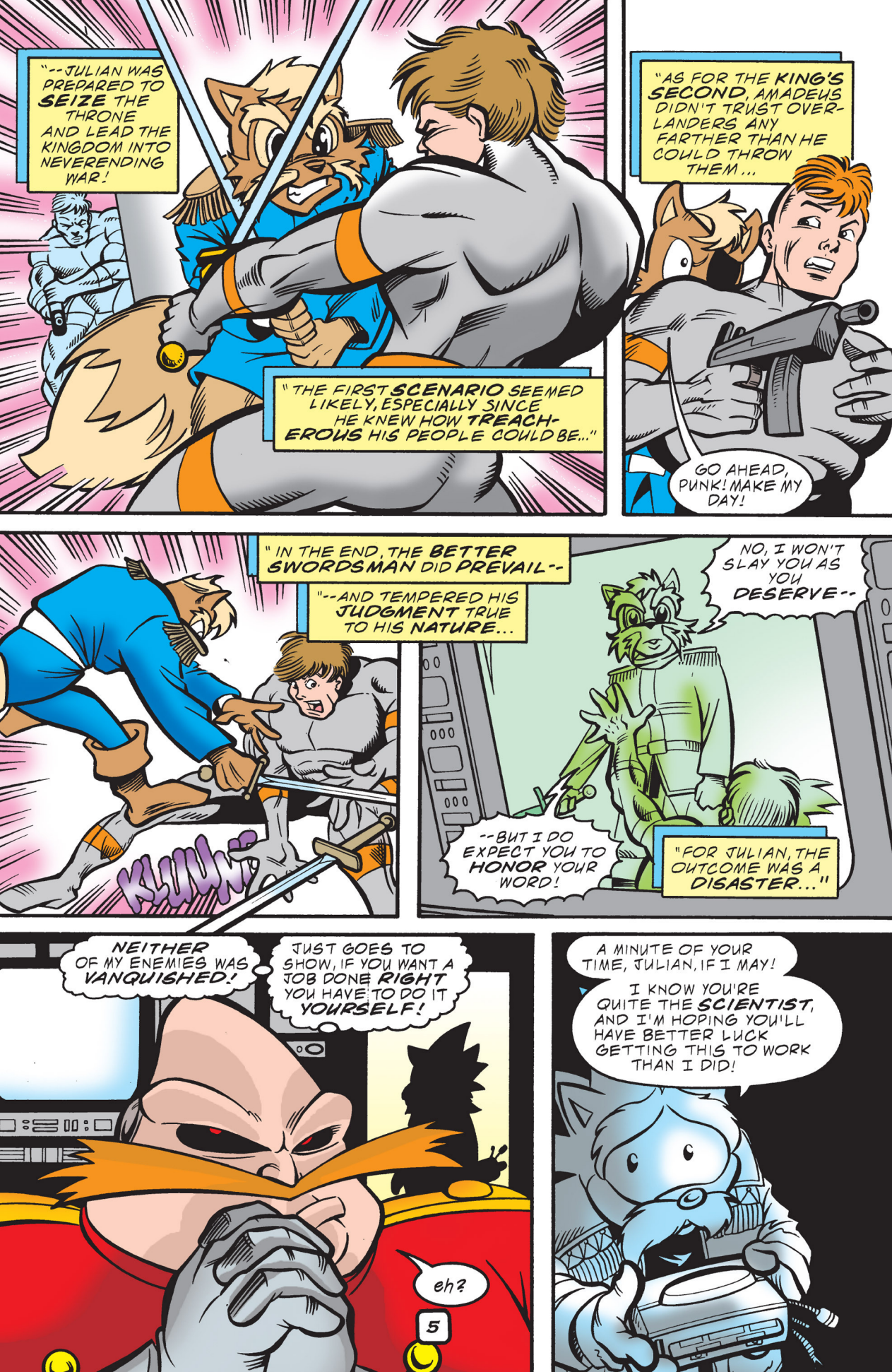

RHHAAARRR
--PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

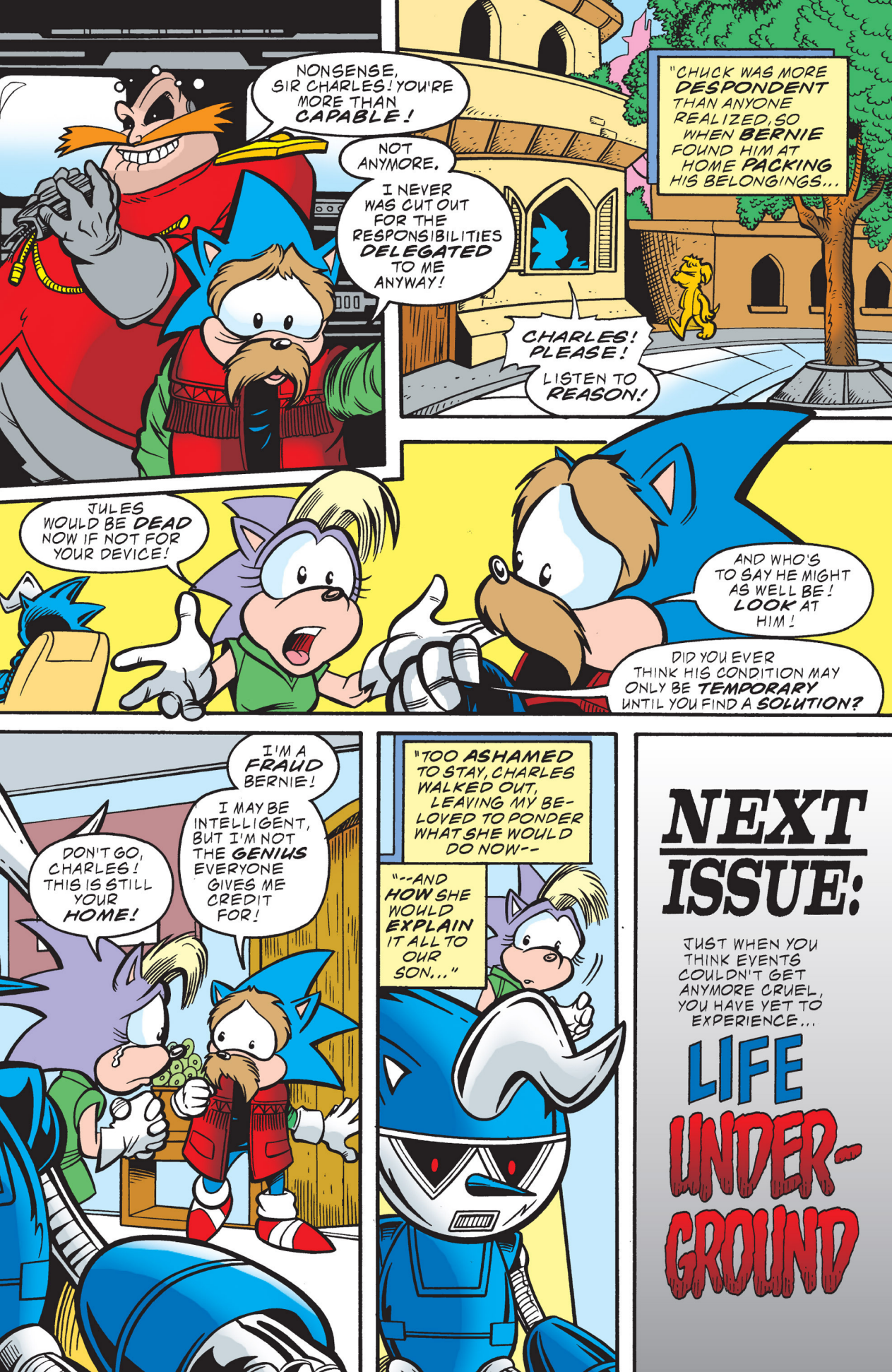

"WHEN THE PROCESS WAS COMPLETE--
CHARLES DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER TO BE RELIEVED OR HORRIFIED!
WITHOUT A DOUBT--


--I CAN SAY CHARLES WAS A BROKEN MAN AFTER THAT!
HE KNEW IMMEDIATELY SOMETHING HAD GONE HORRIBLY WRONG--
"--AND PLACED THE BLAME SQUARELY ON HIS OWN SHOULDERS INSTEAD OF WHERE IT REALLY BELONGED!
SIR CHARLES' DEVICE PERFORMED BETTER THAN EXPECTED!
AND NOW TO TUNE IN ON KING ACORN, AND SEE IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN!


SO FAR, SO GOOD!
KING ACORN IS NOW READY TO ENGAGE IN MORTAL COMBAT WITH MY FORMER OVERLORD!
AT STAKE IS NOTHING LESS THAN WINNER-TAKE ALL!


YOU HAVE TO HAND IT TO ROBOTNIK! HE HAD ALL THE BASES COVERED!
IT WAS HIS SUGGESTION THAT KING ACORN FIGHT A DUEL WITH THE OVERLANDER OVERLORD!
IF KING ACORN WON, JULIAN'S WORST ENEMY WOULD HAVE BEEN CONQUERED, AND THE KINGDOM WOULD HAVE BEEN RIPE FOR THE TAKING!
IF THE KING LOST HOWEVER--


"--JULIAN WAS PREPARED TO SEIZE THE THRONE AND LEAD THE KINGDOM INTO NEVERENDING WAR!
"THE FIRST SCENARIO SEEMED LIKELY, ESPECIALLY SINCE HE KNEW HOW TREACHEROUS HIS PEOPLE COULD BE..."
"AS FOR THE KING'S SECOND, AMADEUS DIDN'T TRUST OVERLANDERS ANY FARTHER THAN HE COULD THROW THEM...
GO AHEAD, PUNK! MAKE MY DAY!
"IN THE END, THE BETTER SWORDSMAN DID PREVAIL--
"--AND TEMPERED HIS JUDGMENT TRUE TO HIS NATURE...
KLUNK
NO, I WON'T SLAY YOU AS YOU DESERVE--
--BUT I DO EXPECT YOU TO HONOR YOUR WORD!
"FOR JULIAN, THE OUTCOME WAS A DISASTER..."
NEITHER OF MY ENEMIES WAS VANQUISHED!
JUST GOES TO SHOW, IF YOU WANT A JOB DONE RIGHT YOU HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELF!
eh?
A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME, JULIAN, IF I MAY!
I KNOW YOU'RE QUITE THE SCIENTIST, AND I'M HOPING YOU'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK GETTING THIS TO WORK THAN I DID!


NONSENSE, SIR CHARLES! YOU'RE MORE THAN CAPABLE!
NOT ANYMORE.
I NEVER WAS CUT OUT FOR THE RESPONSIBILITIES DELEGATED TO ME ANYWAY!
"CHUCK WAS MORE DESPONDENT THAN ANYONE REALIZED, SO WHEN BERNIE FOUND HIM AT HOME PACKING HIS BELONGINGS...
CHARLES! PLEASE! LISTEN TO REASON!
JULES WOULD BE DEAD NOW IF NOT FOR YOUR DEVICE!
AND WHO'S TO SAY HE MIGHT AS WELL BE! LOOK AT HIM!
DID YOU EVER THINK HIS CONDITION MAY ONLY BE TEMPORARY UNTIL YOU FIND A SOLUTION?
I'M A FRAUD BERNIE!
I MAY BE INTELLIGENT, BUT I'M NOT THE GENIUS EVERYONE GIVES ME CREDIT FOR!
DON'T GO, CHARLES! THIS IS STILL YOUR HOME!
"TOO ASHAMED TO STAY, CHARLES WALKED OUT, LEAVING MY BE-LOVED TO PONDER WHAT SHE WOULD DO NOW--
"--AND HOW SHE WOULD EXPLAIN IT ALL TO OUR SON..."
NEXT ISSUE:
JUST WHEN YOU THINK EVENTS COULDN'T GET ANYMORE CRUEL, YOU HAVE YET TO EXPERIENCE...
LIFE UNDER-GROUND